"Express Mail" mailing label number:

EV 335896351 US

RANK-BASED ESTIMATE OF RELEVANCE VALUES

Richard Slackman

Field of the Disclosure

[1001] The present disclosure relates to search engines.

Description of the Related Art   IS NOW US Patent 6,728,704 ✗ 1/18/06

[1002] U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0041054 to Mao et al. discloses a method of merging results lists from multiple search engines. In particular, each of the search engines returns a respective results list based on a search query. A subset of entries in each results list is selected. Each entry in the subset is assigned a scoring value representing how closely the entry matches the search query. Each results list is assigned a representative value based on the scoring values assigned to its subset of entries. A merged list is formed based on each representative value and each scoring value.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[1003] The present invention is pointed out with particularity in the appended claims. However, certain features are described in the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawing in which:

[1004] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system for merging search results lists;

[1005] FIG. 2 is a flow chart of an embodiment of a method performed by a computer upon receiving a search query;

[1006] FIG. 3 is a block diagram to illustrate an example of acts described with reference to FIG. 2; and

- 1 -